

The minimum benefit package under CHIP for children is improved by adding eye-glasses, hearing aids, and medically necessary rehabilitative services for disabled or developmentally delayed children.

Additional steps are established to encourage enrollment of eligible children and their parents, including presumptive eligibility, qualification for at least twelve months, and simplified application forms.

The system of capped state allotments under CHIP is eliminated and federal matching funds are made available for all eligible persons enrolled in the program.

PHASE II: COVERAGE FOR THE REMAINING UNINSURED

Subsidized coverage is made available for the remaining uninsured with incomes below 300% of the poverty level. Coverage is phased in by income levels, beginning with those below 50% of the poverty level in the third year of the program, rising to 300% of the poverty level in the ninth year.

Other uninsured individuals above 300% of poverty may buy-in to the program by paying the cost through premiums.

Responsibility of Employers

Eighty-two percent of the uninsured are workers or dependents of workers. Employers will not be required to provide coverage or contribute to the cost of coverage—but they will be required to offer their uninsured employees an opportunity to enroll in the program and agree to facilitate the coverage by withholding any required premium contributions from the employee's periodic pay.

Cost

Preliminary estimates of similar proposals indicate that the federal cost will be \$200–300 billion over the next ten years, beyond the amount already budgeted for expansions of coverage under the current CHIP program.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and on behalf of the victims and families affected by domestic violence, I rise to speak on this rapidly growing and widespread health concern. Domestic violence involves serious physical, sexual and psychological consequences not only for women, but for children and entire families. It affects our entire nation and cuts across all lines of race, age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and religion. Not only does domestic violence include spouse or partner abuse and woman battering, it also involves child abuse, elder abuse, and violence between roommates.

The devastating statistics demonstrates the urgency of this matter. Every year, 3 to 4 million women are beaten by male partners. Every 21 days, a woman is killed by domestic violence, and every 15 seconds, a domestic violence act occurs somewhere in the U.S. This means that there are over 2.5 million victims of domestic violence per year. Almost 2 out of 3 females from this group have been attacked by a family member or acquaintance. In addition, more than 53 percent of male abusers beat their children, and 32 out of 1,000 people over age 65 experience elder abuse.

Domestic violence not only affects the victim but also affects families, relatives, and unborn children. While victims are traumatized and left with a sense of vulnerability and helplessness, the over 3 million children who witness acts of domestic violence display emotional and behavioral disturbances. Also, pregnant women who are victims of physical abuse have greater chance of miscarriage.

Unfortunately, domestic violence involves victims from all walks of life and all geographic locations. In Guam, of the 2,090 violent offenses reported to the Guam Police Department, 661 arrests were made for family violence. In 1999, the Guam Child Protective Services received 1,908 referrals, and between 1997 and 1999, the Guam Adult Protective Services received 907 referrals for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Such violence should not be tolerated. Every woman, man, and child has the right to a healthy and safe environment. Numerous national and state organizations have contributed to efforts in raising awareness, conducting programs encouraging preventive mechanisms, providing counseling services, and building centers or shelters for victims and their families.

In recognition of this growing concern and the need to address this issue, October has been declared "Family Violence Awareness Month" by the Governor of Guam. It has included a Silent Witness Ceremony in honor of domestic violence victims, a Hands Across Guam Rally for island wide community outreach, a Family Violence Conference for the general public and professional staff, and a Poster Exhibition for Elementary Schools including children's artwork on family and love.

Guam has also benefitted from the \$300 million in "STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution) Violence Against Women" grant funds, which were awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office to 4,715 grant recipients nationwide. Of these funds, 51 grants were awarded to agencies and organizations in Guam, totaling more than \$2.5 million.

Domestic violence is a widespread and growing problem needing urgent and constant attention. We must all work together so that women, children, and families can live in a safe and nurturing home environment. I will continually support this issue for all victims of domestic violence and for the healthy and safe environment of our entire Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO RENAME "MEDICARE+CHOICE" AS "MEDICARE-NO-CHOICE"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, sometimes a lie is repeated so often, that people forget what a falsehood it is.

For years, people who want to privatize Medicare have been saying that joining a managed care plan—an HMO—will give seniors more choice. In 1997, they even renamed the whole HMO program, "Medicare+Choice," pronounced Medicare Plus Choice.

What a lie.

In traditional, fee-for-service Medicare, you have total freedom of choice. One of my constituents in Medicare from Fremont, California can decide to go to Baltimore's Johns Hopkins, which US News consistently rates as the Nation's best hospital, and Medicare will pay.

But when you join a Medicare+Choice HMO, all of a sudden you are limited in the hospitals you can go to and the doctors you can see that the HMO and Medicare will pay for.

So Medicare+Choice really isn't "more choice." More HMOs simply mean "more choices of plans that limit your choice of doctors and hospitals."

Therefore, let's be honest: to stop the lie and make it clear what managed care is all about, I am today introducing a bill that says, in its entirety,

"Strike the words 'Medicare+Choice' wherever it appears in the law, and substitute the words 'Medicare-No-Choice'."

This name change may seem like a silly idea at first blush, but there is a good reason for it. The current name gives the impression that you are getting more than you would in traditional Medicare. All too often, that is not the case. The reality is that seniors are being duped by HMOs each and every day into joining plans that offer the world and then take most of those benefits away year by year—if they even remain in the program at all.

"Medicare-No-Choice"—this name change would give Medicare beneficiaries pause and might cause them to look at the details of the plan more than is currently the case. And, Mr. Speaker, that is not a silly change at all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote on the following measures yesterday.

On roll No. 541—H. Res. 634 (Rule on H.R. 4656), if I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

On roll No. 542—H. Con. Res. 414 (Regarding establishment of representative government in Afghanistan), if I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

On roll No. 543—H.R. 4271—National Science Education Act, if I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

HAIL THE VETERAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as Veterans' Day approaches, I wanted to share a poem which was written by one of my constituents, Charlie Reese, with my colleagues.

Hail the Veteran—whose noble deeds,
Nurtured Liberty's growing seeds,
Soldier, Sailor, airman, grunt,
Who held this Nation's battle fronts.

These selfless people who paid the price,
With years or life in sacrifice.